(c) if the answer to part (a) and (b) above be in affirmative, what are the reasons for refusal to grant permission to the Amnesty members to visit the country this time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Continuation of Monopoly Cotton Procurement scheme in Maharashtra

@998. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra had approached the Union Government to continue the Monopoly Cotton Procurement Scheme in the State; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Union Government have agreed for extension of the Maharashtra Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme with effect from 1-7-89.

Identification of Flood Prone Areas in Assam

@@999. SHRIMATI VIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had identified flood-prone areas in Assam specially the areas where floods usually cause devastation on massive scale; and

(b) if so, the number of such areas; identified so far and the measures proposed to be taken when situation demands in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) Rashtriya Barh Ayog assessed the areas prone to floods in Assam as 3.15 Million hectares. Among others Brahmaputra sub-basin, Buridihing sub-basin in Dibrugarh district, Disang and Dikhow sub-basins in Sibsagar district, Majuli area in Jorhat district, Kopili sub-basin in Nowgong district, Manas and Baki sub-basins in Barpeta district, Pagladiya and Puthimari sub-basins in Nalbari district, Gangadhar sub-basin and South Salmara area in Dhubri district experience floods causing considerable damage. Apart from structural measures like marginal embankments and drainage channels, non-structural measures adopted for such areas are Flood Forecasting and regulation of economic activities in the floods prone areas and evacuation of persons to safer places during the periods of excessive floods.

Pollution in Raniganj and Jharia Coalfields

1000. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

DR. R. K. PODDAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of pollution in Raniganj and Jharia Coalfields;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to improve the environmental quality in this area?

@Previously Unstarred Question 465, transferred from the 21st July, 1989.

@Previously Unstarred Question 492, transferred from the 21st July, 1989.